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KRUG EXTENDS RAT CAMPAIGN

Further aid in the conservation of the vital food supplies of the United States will result from the extension of the National Urban Rat Control Campaign from April 30 to June 30 announced today by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug. The extension was announced after a meeting with the National Committee for Rat Control composed of representatives of industry and civic groups concerned with the rat problem.

The additional two-month program came as a result of increasing replies from cities of more than 10,000 desiring to cooperate in the all-out drive. These demands, far in excess of normal participation and the anticipated response, forced the extension.

All of the 48 states and more than 250 cities have enrolled in response to Secretary Krug's original invitation, and seven states have enrolled every eligible city. New requests for assistance in killing rats and saving food arrive at the National Committee's Washington office every day.

Secretary Krug called upon the Department's Fish and Wildlife Service rat control experts to redouble their efforts, but said, "They will have to spread their time thin and in some instances will have to do their work by remote control, we do not have enough men to go round. As more towns enter the fight against rats, the ability of a few men and women to cover the country reaches an almost impossible situation."

"Some of the men carrying on the rat campaign have been loaned to the Department by cities already carrying on long-range control programs and must return, further reducing the staff of available experts," Secretary Krug said. "Their work has been of real value in taking this food conservation program to American cities. While we could not expect to kill all the rats, through combined efforts we have made a sizeable dent in the rat population and proved that it can be done."

Chairman Hamilton M. Warren of the National Committee, and vice president of the National Carbon Company of New York, declared, "The public has responded as I expected they would to our offer of aid in ridding their cities of rats. After all, who can refuse this opportunity to save for the country and its people a large part of the two billion dollars a year which rat destruction costs us."

"The campaign is proving that once people realize how dangerous and destructive rats are, they will see that permanent rat control measures are established in their cities," Mr. Warren continued. "Only by keeping constantly after the rats, can we keep them under control."

The urban rat control program, initiated in early March by Secretary Krug's letter to all the Mayors of cities of more than 10,000 population, and the formation of the National Committee, established 26 areas each containing about 40 eligible cities and served by one or more of 32 designated demonstration cities. Local civic clubs, newspapers, radio stations, women's organizations and other groups are lending their full support to the citizen's committees appointed in the cooperating cities.

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